

17.NOV.2000 13:22

PATENT EXPRESS

NO. 972

P. 19/31

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 16 -

CLAIMS

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- 1 A method of controlling a pest by at least partially coating the pest with a particulate material (7, 17) incorporating a killing or behaviour-modifying agent, which method comprises directing, attracting or otherwise luring the pest on to, above, or otherwise adjacent a surface (4, 14) bearing such a particulate material (7, 17) to render the material (7) airborne by the movement of the pest on, above, or in the region of the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).
- 2 A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is a powder which is sufficiently fine for it to be rendered airborne by a pest moving across flying above or adjacent, or taking-off from the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14), so that the pest becomes at least partially coated with the powder.
- 3 A method according to claim 2, wherein the powder (7) comprises or is combined with at least one biological, synthetic or natural pesticide as a killing agent.
- 4 A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the pest is an insect pest.
- 5 A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is charged electrostatically as it is rendered airborne from the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).
- 6 A method according to claim 5, wherein the particulate material (7) is charged by friction.

17.NOV.2000 13:22 PATENT EXPRESS

NO. 972 P. 20/31

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 17 -

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7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the surface (4, 14) is associated with a trap (1, 11), comprising an electrically insulating material.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the electrically insulating material comprises a plastics material.
9. A method according to any preceding claim including providing a pheromone or parapheromone attractant (5, 15) for luring pests to be controlled.
- 10
10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the surface (4) is coated with a fine powder (7) which is charged electrostatically.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the powder (7) is capable of retaining its electrostatic charge for long periods on the surface (4).
- 15
12. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein undesired removal or loss of the particulate material (7, 17) from the surface (4, 14) is eliminated or at least substantially reduced.
- 20
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein undesired removal or other loss of the particulate material (7) from the surface (4) is eliminated or at least substantially reduced by means of raised edges (9), preferably rounded, at the periphery of the surface (4).
- 25
14. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is accommodated in at least one recess (6) or trough (16) associated with the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).
15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the particulate material (7) is

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 18 -

accommodated in at least one recess (6) provided in the particulate material-bearing surface (4).

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the upper periphery of the or each recess (6) is provided with raised edges (10).

17. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the particulate material-bearing surface (4) is provided on a plate (2) which is preformed and stands alone, preferably upon feet (8).

18. A method according to claim 14, wherein the particulate material-bearing surface (14) comprises at least one trough (16) in which the particulate material (17) is accommodated.

19. A method according to any of claims 14 to 18, wherein the dimensions of the or each recess (6) or the or each trough (16), as the case may be, in which the particulate material (7, 17) is accommodated, are generally smaller than those of the pests to be controlled.

20. A method according to any of claims 1 to 16 and 19, wherein the surface (4) comprises part of a tubular trap (1).

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the trap (1) is provided with a triangular cross-section.

22. A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the surface (4) is an interior surface of the trap (1).

23. Pest control apparatus comprising a surface (4, 14) on to, above or in the

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 19 -

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5 region of which a pest is capable of being directed, attracted or otherwise lured and which bears a particulate material (7, 17) incorporating a killing or behaviour-modifying agent, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is capable of being rendered airborne by movement of the pest on, above, or in the region of the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).

10 24. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is a powder which is sufficiently fine for it to be rendered airborne by a pest moving across, flying above, or in the region of, or taking-off from the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14), so that the pest, becomes at least partially coated with the powder.

15 25. Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the powder (7, 17) comprises or is combined with at least one biological, synthetic or natural pesticide as a killing agent.

20 26. Apparatus according to claim 23, 24 or 25, wherein the pest is an insect pest.

25 27. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 26, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) has properties which enable it to become charged electrostatically as it is rendered airborne from the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).

28. Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is chargeable by friction.

29. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 28, wherein the surface (4, 14) is associated with a trap (1, 11), comprising an electrically insulating material.

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 20 -

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30. Apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the electrically insulating material comprises a plastics material.
31. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 30 comprising a pheromone or parapheromone attractant (5, 15).
32. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 31, wherein the surface (4) is coated with a fine powder (7) which is charged electrostatically.
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33. Apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the powder (7) is capable of retaining its electrostatic charge for long periods on the trap surface (4).
- 15
34. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 33, wherein undesired removal or loss of the particulate material (7, 17) from the surface (4, 14) is eliminated or at least substantially reduced.
- 20
35. Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein undesired removal or other loss of the particulate material (7) from the surface (4) is eliminated or at least substantially reduced by raised edges (9), preferably rounded, at the periphery of the surface (4).
- 25
36. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 35, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is accommodated in at least one recess (6) or trough (16) associated with the particulate material-bearing surface (4, 14).
37. Apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the particulate material (7) is accommodated in at least one recess (6) provided in the particulate material-bearing surface (4).

WO 99/60348

PCT/GB99/01631

- 21 -

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38. Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the upper periphery of the or each recess (6) has raised edges (10).
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39. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 38, wherein the particulate material-bearing surface (4) is on a plate (2) which is preformed and stands alone, preferably upon feet (8).
- 15
40. Apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the particulate material-bearing surface (14) comprises at least one trough (16) in which the particulate material (17) is accommodated.
- 20
41. Apparatus according to any of claims 36 to 40, wherein the dimensions of the or each recess (6) or the or each trough (16), as the case may be, in which the particulate material (7, 17) is accommodated, are generally smaller than those of the pests to be controlled.
- 25
42. Apparatus according to any of claims 23 to 38, wherein the surface (4) comprises part of a tubular trap (1).
43. Apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the trap (1) has a triangular cross-section.
44. Apparatus according to claim 42 or 43, wherein the surface (4) is an interior surface of the trap (1).
45. A pest control trap (1, 11) comprising a surface (4, 14) having at least one recess (6, 16) therein, wherein a particulate material (7, 17) incorporating a pest killing or behaviour-modifying agent, is accommodated in the or each recess (6, 16).

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 22 -

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46. A trap (1, 11) according to claim 45, wherein the or each recess (6, 16) has dimensions which are generally smaller than those of pests to be controlled.
47. A trap (1, 11) according to claim 45 or 46, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is capable of being rendered airborne by movement of a pest in the vicinity thereof.
- 10
48. A trap (1, 11) according to any of claims 27 to 29, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is a fine powder.
49. A trap (1, 11) according to any of claims 45 to 48, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is capable of being charged electrostatically.
- 15
50. A trap (1, 11) according to any of claims 45 to 49, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) is chargeable by friction as it is rendered airborne, for subsequent contamination of a pest in the vicinity thereof.
- 20
51. A method of preventing the dispersion of a pest-contaminating particulate material (7, 17) from a pest trap (1, 11), which method comprises accommodating the material (7, 17) in at least one recess (6, 16) in a surface (4, 14) of the trap (1, 11).
- 25
52. A method according to claim 51, wherein the particulate material (7, 17) comprises a fine powder.
53. A method according to claim 51 or 52, wherein the pest-contaminating particulate material (7, 17) is protected from wind action.
54. A method according to claim 51, 52 or 53, wherein the particulate material (7,

WO 99/60848

PCT/GB99/01631

- 23 -

17) is attached to a pest as it flies in the region of or takes-off from the surface (4, 14).

5 55. A method according to any of claims 51 to 54, wherein the pest is a flying insect pest.

56. A method according to claim 55, wherein downthrust of air generated by the pest's wing beats, renders the particulate material (7) airborne.

10 57. A method according to claim 56, wherein, as the material (7, 17) becomes airborne, it is charged electrostatically, so that it will adhere to the pest.

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